

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method A~~ method for driving an actuator, the method comprising the ~~step act~~ of suitably amending the changing electrical damping of the actuator by selectively activating at least one switch for switching in or out an electrical damping element providing a negative resistance.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the electrical damping of the actuator is ~~amended by amending the changed by changing an~~ electrical resistance of an actuator drive loop.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the electrical damping of the actuator is increased with respect to the damping during normal operative conditions when an actuator position deviates from a target position, and wherein the electrical damping of the actuator is decreased to the normal damping when the actuator has recovered the target position.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 1, applied in an optical disc drive for radially driving an objective lens radial actuator, wherein the electrical damping of the radial actuator is increased when a radial error signal indicates a radial error exceeding a predefined threshold, or when the radial error signal becomes absent;

and wherein the electrical damping of the radial actuator is decreased to the normal damping when the radial error signal indicates said radial error decreasing below said predefined threshold, or when the radial error signal returns, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 1, applied in an optical disc drive for axially driving an

objective lens focus actuator, wherein the electrical damping of the focus actuator is increased when a focus error signal indicates a focus error exceeding a predefined threshold, or when the focus error signal becomes absent;

and wherein the electrical damping of the focus actuator is decreased to the normal damping when the focus error signal indicates said focus error decreasing below said predefined threshold, or when the focus error signal returns, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 1, applied in an optical disc drive for radially driving an objective lens radial actuator or for axially driving an objective lens focus actuator, wherein the electrical damping of the actuator is increased in response to a command indicating a jump to another track, or during a power up phase, and wherein the electrical damping of the actuator is decreased to the normal damping when the new target track has been reached or when the power up phase has ended, respectively.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator~~ An actuator driver circuit:

having

a variable negative internal resistance including an input resistor, a first resistor and a second resistor; and

at least once switch for selective connecting the input resistor to at least one of the first resistor and the second resistor.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator~~ An actuator driver circuit comprising a drive signal source and an electrical damping element having a negative resistance connected in series with the drive signal source between the actuator and ground.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator driver circuit according to~~
The actuator of claim 9, comprising controllable means for selectively switching said electrical damping element into or out of a signal path from a drive signal source output to a driver circuit output the actuator to the ground.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator driver circuit according to~~
The actuator of claim 9, comprising controllable means for

selectively switching components of said electrical damping element into or out of operation in order to adjust damping properties of the electrical damping element.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator~~ An actuator assembly comprising:

an actuator,

a drive signal source, and

an electrical damping element having a negative resistance ~~connected in series with the drive signal source and the actuator~~ between the actuator and ground.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator assembly according to~~ The actuator of claim 12, further comprising controllable means for selectively switching said electrical damping element into or out of a signal path ~~between the drive signal source and the actuator~~ actuator and the ground.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Actuator assembly according to~~ The actuator of claim 12, further comprising controllable means for

selectively switching components of said electrical damping element into or out of operation in order to adjust damping properties of the electrical damping element.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Disc~~ A disc drive apparatus for reading or writing a disc, the apparatus comprising a pickup element and at least one actuator for manipulating the pickup element;

wherein the disc drive apparatus comprises ~~an~~ the actuator driver circuit according to claim 8.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Disc~~ The disc drive apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said pickup element is an objective lens of an optical system for scanning tracks of an optical disc.